(vi) Preparation of contingency plan concerning natural calamities and disease outbreaks which would also include appropriate insurance packages.

(vii) Strengthening of educational infrastructure for training and retraining of veterinary graduates, auxiliary staff as well as farmers.

(viii) Eradication and control of major animal diseases to improve productivity of animals and exploit export potential of livestock and livestock products.

The draft National Livestock Policy is under circulation before its presentation to the Cabinet and expected to be launched before the end of this year.

The National Livestock Policy provides broad guidelines for holistic development of the entire livestock sector. Therefore, to meet its objectives various short, medium and long tern programmes will have to be implemented over a period of time.

Since Livestock sector is a state subject, the states will have to adopt the policy and launch suitable programmes specific to their needs so as to meet the overall national objectives of livestock development in order to ensure food security of the nation and general welfare of rural and urban population.

Fish breeding

28. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project is being operated by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) comprising four ornamental fish breeding units by entrepreneurs with technology provided from Israel to meet the domestic requirement as well as to export ornamental fish;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these marine products have also been used by Indian aquarium industry and the percentage thereof *viz.-a-viz.* the total production; and

(d) the details of foreign exchange earned through exporting these marine products during 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes Sir. The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is implementing a scheme for setting up four ornamental fish breeding units with technical assistance from Israel.

(b) Four entrepreneurs located in West Bengal and Kerala had been selected under this scheme to set up two Angel Fish and two Guppy fish production units. Two angel fish production units have already started the production on trial basis. The construction of two Guppy units is nearing completion and production will start soon.

(c) The project is in the final phase and the units are expected to start commercial scale production soon.

(d) Although during the year 2007, the country earned an amount of US$ 1.38 million (Rs. 570.51 Lakh) from export of ornamental fish, these two completed units are at a test marketing stage and it is expected that there would be significant contribution to exports after these units start commercial production.

Shortage of fertilizers in Maharashtra

29. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra State has in a communication urged him to take effective measures to ease up the situation regarding fertilizers;

(b) whether the State Government has also taken serious view on those who were indulging in creating artificial fertilizer shortage;

(c) whether Government has also asked concerned authorities to inspect warehouses, godowns where black marketers had hoarded fertilizers creating shortage;

(d) if so, whether fertilizer shortage has created unrest among the farmers in the State; and

(e) if so, what is the total quantity of fertilizers released by the Centre to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Maharashtra Government have replied in affirmative.

(d) and (e) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. Union Government ensures availability of urea at State level. State Governments are responsible for its distribution within the State. All other fertilizers *viz.* DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply.

The table below gives the details of demand and supply of urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers in the States of Maharashtra during Kharif 2008 season:

('000 MT)

State	Particulars	Urea	DAP	MOP	Complex
Maharashtra	Demand/ Assessed requirement	1425.00	475.00	170.00	965.00
	Supply (Availability)	1436.12	533.17	268.80	616.63
	Sales	1399.88	532.22	261.07	612.19

As can be seen, there is no shortage of Urea, DAP and MOP in Maharashtra. However, the component 'P' has been compensated by additional supplies of DAP to the tune of about 0.58 lakh MT to make up the shortage of complexes.